

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /055 W  
-----300318Z 072080 /13

R 292226Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3121  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1599

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MPOL, NZ, AS  
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND-AUSTRALIA DEFENSE COOPERATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED APRIL  
28 IN CANBERRA BY NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER MCCREADY  
AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN:

2. QUOTE: FOLLOWING THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE  
PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND INITIALLY  
AT ROTORUA, NZ, IN 1976 AND IN CANBERRA LAST MONTH,  
THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, HON. D. J. KILLEN,  
AND THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTER OF DEFENCE, HON. ALLAN  
MCCREADY, MET IN CANBERRA ON 28 APRIL TO PURSUE  
PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPING AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND  
DEFENCE COOPERATION.

3. THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT IN THE EVENT OF ANY  
DETERIORATION IN THE OVERALL STRATEGIC CURCUMSTANCES  
AFFECTING BOTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, THE TWO  
COUNTRIES WOULD WISH TO BE PREPARED TO GIVE MILITARY  
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SUPPORT TO EACH OTHER AS SITUATION REQUIRED. BEARING  
THIS IN MIND THEY AGREED THAT THERE IS A NEED WITHIN  
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ANZUS ALLIANCE AND THE CANBERRA  
AGREEMENT OF 1944 TO DEFINE JOINTLY THE OBJECTIVES OF  
DEFENCE COOPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

4. THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE POLICY OBJECTIVE OF

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND COOPERATION IN DEFENCE SHOULD BE TO MAXIMISE THE COMBINED EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEFENCE CAPABILITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DECISIONS. TO THIS END THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL CONSULT TOGETHER ON WAYS OF ASSISTING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE TWO COUNTRIES OF FORCE STRUCTURES WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE AND ABLE TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER.

5. THE MINISTERS FURTHER AGREED THAT THE RESPECTIVE DEFENSE MINISTRIES AND FORCES SHOULD, TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, DEVELOP COORDINATION AND RATIONALIZATION IN AREAS WHERE DEFENCE INTERESTS ARE SHARED, IN PARTICULAR IN SUCH AREAS AS MARITIME SURVEILLANCE, CONCEPTS OF OPERATIONS AND DOCTRINES, COMBINED TRAINING AND EXERCISING, DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, LOGISTIC SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS AND DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY COOPERATION.

6. THE MINISTERS ENDORSED PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING EXISTING MACHINERY TO FURTHER THE AGREED AIM OF DEFENCE COOPERATION. THEY AGREED THAT TO ASSIST THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, COMPRISING THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENCE AND CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF OF EACH COUNTRY, A DEFENCE POLICY GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO FORMULATE PROPOSALS FOR FURTHERING AGREED POLICY AIMS, AND TO COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED POLICY. UNQUOTE.

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7. MFA AUSTRALIA AND AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD PLIMMER, IN BRIEFING FOR EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CALLED THE COMMUNIQUE AN "EMBRYONIC," BUT NONE THE LESS IMPORTANT STEP IN REINVIGORATING MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS INITIATIVE SHOULD BE SEEN AS BEING TAKEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANZUS AGREEMENT. PLIMMER CITED, IN PARTICULAR, ARTICLE II OF THE TREATY WHERE THE PARTIES PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO DEVELOP THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE CAPACITY TO RESIST ARMED ATTACK. (IN AN ASIDE, HE COMMENTED THAT THE MENTION OF THE CANBERRA PACT IN PARA 3 ABOVE IS A "THROW-AWAY LINE" INCLUDED BECAUSE OF ITS SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD AS BEING EQUATED IN IMPORTANCE TO THE ANZUS PACT.)

8. PLIMMER STRESSED THE THREE MAIN POINTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE: 1) BASIC DOCTRINE (DESIRE TO BE PREPARED TO GIVE EACH OTHER MILITARY SUPPORT IF STRATEGIC

CIRCUMSTANCES DETERIORATE); 2) POLICY OBJECTIVE (MAXIMIZE COMBINED EFFECTIVENESS OF DEFENSE CAPABILITIES); AND 3) MEANS/Framework (ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPATIBLE FORCE STRUCTURES/DEFENSE POLICY GROUP).

9. WITH REGARD TO THE DEFENSE POLICY GROUP, PLIMMER SAID IT WOULD NOT BE A LARGE SECRETARIAT, JUST TWO OR SO PERSONS ON EACH SIDE WHO WOULD CONSULT PERSONALLY SEVERAL TIMES EACH YEAR AND "PASS PAPERS."

10. ASKED WHETHER THIS PRESAGED INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING, PLIMMER SAID DEFINITELY NOT. WHAT IS CONTEMPLATED ARE MOVES TOWARD COORDINATION AND RATIONALIZATION RATHER THAN STEPS TOWARD NEW EXPENDITURES.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WELLINGTON 1599

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11. PLIMMER DESCRIBED THE MOTIVATION FOR THE COMMUNIQUE AS HAVING A "CERTAIN SPONTANEITY" ARISING FROM SEVERAL FACTORS, INCLUDING A) THE TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS MULDOON AND FRASER AT ROTORUA LAST YEAR AND IN CANBERRA LAST MONTH; B) THE OUTCOME OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN WELLINGTON IN LATE MARCH; THE DESIRES OF THE N.Z. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (PARTLY ON ITS OWN AND PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTEREST); C) A REALIZATION OF THE "SLUGGISHNESS" OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1969 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN DEFENSE SUPPLY AND THE OPERATION OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE COOPERATION BEGUN IN

1972; AND D) A RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO ADJUST THE  
RELATIONSHIP TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TIMES.

12. PLIMMER ALSO OUTLINED A THREE TIER FRAMEWORK TO OPERA-  
TIONALIZE THE UNDERSTANDING, BEGINNING WITH THE PRESENT  
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, ASSISTED BY THE DEFENSE  
POLICY GROUP TO FORMULATE PROPOSALS WITHIN THE AGREED  
POLICY OBJECTIVE AND TO COORDINATE IMPLEMENTTION, AND  
SUPPLEMENTED BY AD HOC WORKING GROUPS TO DEAL WITH AREAS  
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SUCH AS MENTIONED IN PARA 5.

13. COMMENT: WE SEE THE COMMUNIQUE AS BEING AN IMPORTANT  
STATEMENT OF INTENTION AND THE FURTHER ELABORATION OF  
COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS  
BEING HELPFUL TO U.S. INTERESTS. HOW MUCH FURTHER CAN BE  
ACCOMPLISHED IN THE WAY OF RATIONALIZATION WITHOUT INCURR-  
ING INCREASED COSTS IS PROBLEMATIC, BUT THE INITIATIVE  
IS OBVIOUSLY SEEN BY SOME OF ITS NEW ZEALAND PROPONENTS  
AS A METHOD OF BUILDING JUSTIFICATION FOR NEW DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS. WE WILL BE SEEING DEFENSE SECRETARY  
ROBERTSON ON HIS RETURN NEXT WEEK FOR A FURTHER BRIEFING  
FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW.  
KILLGORE

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## Message Attributes

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